

### REMARKS

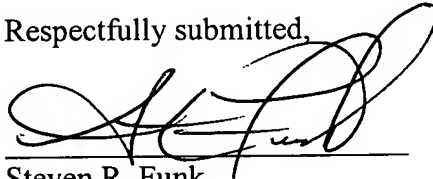
This preliminary amendment is provided to remove multiple dependencies from particular claims. The amendments made to the claims are not made for purposes relating to patentability, and are not made in response to prior art or any objections or rejections to the claims. Thus, the Applicant has not intended to narrow, nor has the Applicant narrowed, the scope of any of the claims by way of this preliminary amendment.

The Applicant respectfully requests that this preliminary amendment be entered into the record prior to calculation of the filing fee and prior to examination and consideration of the above-identified patent application.

If the Examiner has any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney of record at 651-686-6633 (ext. 110) to discuss any issues related to this case.

Date: February 11, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. R. Funk', written over a horizontal line.

Steven R. Funk  
Reg. No. 37,830